

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 01302 070806Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 875

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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AFSC ANDREWS AFB

ASD WPAFB OH/YP

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MASS DA

SUBJ: LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER DANES CONTINUE TO WAIT

AND TO SUPPORT F-16

SUMMARY: THE DANES SUPPORT THE CONSORTIUM REQUEST FOR
AND EXTENSION OF THE MAY 15 DEADLINE BUT ARE PEEVED WITH
THE DELAY CAUSED BY BELGIAN (AND PERHAPS DUTCH) INDE
CISION. AFTER CABINET AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIA
MENTARY GROUP MEETING PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN
REITERATED DANISH PREFERENCE FOR THE F-16. END SUMMARY.

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1. THE DANISH PRESS REPORTED THE "SECRET" VISIT HEE LAST WEEK

OF DUTCH DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES TO BIREF THE DANES AND NORWEGIANS ON THE RESULTS OF DISCUSSION WITH THE BELGIANS.

2. TODAY (MAY 6) ALL PAPERS CARRY THE CONSORTIUM REQUEST TO THE US TO EXTEND THE DEALINE FROM MAY 15 TO JUNE 1 IN THE HOPE THAT BELGIUM CAN SORT OUT ITS INTERNAL PROBLEMS TO ALLOW THE CONSORTIUM TO ACT TOGETHER. ACCORDING TO SOME PAPERS GENERAL DYNAMICS ITSELF HAS ALREADY EXTENDED THE DEADLINE FROM MAY 15 TO MAY 20.

3. THE QUESTION OF THE AIRCRAFT PURCHASE WAS DISCUSSED YESTERDAY (MAY 5) BOTH IN THE CABINET AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS SOME GROUP MEMBERS FAVOR THE VIGGEN BECAUSE OF THE BIG BOOST THE SWEDISH OFFSET OFFER WOULD GIVE TO DANISH INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT. SAAB-SCANIA REPORTEDLY HAS AGAIN INFORMED MOD THAT THE DEAL OFFERED DENMARK WILL BE UNALTERED EVEN IF THE CONSORTIUM DOES NOT UNDERTAKE JOINT PROCUREMENT.

4. AFTER THE MEETING, MINISTER OF DEFENSE ORLA MOLLER COMPLAINED THAT NO DECISION COULD YET BE REACHED BECAUSE "FOR THE SECOND TIME, THE TIME LIMIT ON OUR DECISION HAS HAD TO BE POSTPONES BECUSE OF THE ATTITUDE OF HOLLAND AND BELGIUM". BOTH HE AND PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT DELIBERATIONS CANNOT BE CONCLUDED UNTIL THE ATTITUDE OF BELGIUM IS KNOWN. THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO SAID THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT DECISION MUST BE PLANNED SO THAT IT DOES NOT BLOCK IN ADVANCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHEN THE PRESENT FOUR-YEAR ONE (1973-77) EXPIRES. THE PRIME MINISTER REITERATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES BOTH FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REASONS TO PREFER THE F-16.

5. COMMENT: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DOUBLE FOUR COMMITTEE, POUL SOGAARD TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE INTENDED EFFECT OF THESE NEWS REPORTS IS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY PARTICULARLY THAT THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS SURE OF THE POSITION OF ITS OWN PARTY ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER ISSUE. FURTHERMORE THE PERPLEXING PROBLEM OF THE POSITION OF THE RADICAL PARTY AS PORT OF THE EXISTING DEFENSE AGREEMENT VISA-A-VIS THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER PURCHASE HAS HOPEFULLY BEEN SOLVED. SOGAARD SAID THAT LAST WEEK-END'S CONVENTION OF THE RADICAL PARTY DECIDED NOT TO DENOUNCE THE EXISTING AGREEMENT IF THE DECISION WERE MADE TO PURCHASE THE FIGHTER. THIS

DECISION WAS CONSISTENT WITH THE PARALLEL ONE TAKEN BY
THE RADICALS THAT THE PURCHASE COMMITEMENT CLEARLY
INVOLVED FUNDS BEYOND THE SCOPE OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT.
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